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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Docket No.: **2045532-5001C1**
(Formerly 0670004)

William G. DENNIS, et al.

Serial No.: 09/885,856

Group Art Unit: 3763

Filed: June 20, 2001

Examiner: HAYES, Michael J.

Confirmation No.: 3188

For: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY**

Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In further response to the **Notice of Allowability** mailed February 13, 2006, Applicants provide the following substance of the interview.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to **Attorney Deposit Account No. 23-1951 (McGuireWoods)**. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to the same Deposit Account.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hayes for his outstanding courtesy and cooperation exhibited during the personal interview conducted on January 31, 2006 and February 6, 2006 with Applicants' undersigned representative.

The Examiner contacted Applicants' representative in order to make an Examiner's amendment. During the interview, the Examiner requested this amendment to further clarify the claims with respect to the prior art. Applicants' representative did not necessarily think the amendment was necessary, but nevertheless agreed to the amendment to expedite prosecution.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue, and to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to **Attorney Deposit Account No. 23-11951 (McGuireWoods)**.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Hilten
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Date: March 15, 2006

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